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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of managing a network comprising:
provisioning or de-provisioning a physical component on the
network; and
automatically updating a logical object to reflect the
provisioning or de-provisioning of the physical
component.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting that the physical component has been added to the
network; and
instantiating a physical model object corresponding to the
physical component.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein detecting and instantiating
are performed automatically.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein updating the logical object
comprises relating the physical model object to the logical
object.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining that
the physical component has been removed from the network.
6. An apparatus operable for carrying out the method of claim
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7. A method of managing a network comprising:
 using a logical instrument with a first set of physical
 components;
 creating a second set of physical components that is
 different from the first set of physical components; and
 using the logical instrument with the second set of
 physical components, wherein the logical instrument is
 not manually reconfigured between using the logical
 instrument with the first set of physical components and
 using the logical instrument with the second set of
 physical components.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the logical instrument is not
 changed between using the logical instrument with the first
 set of physical components and using the logical instrument
 with the second set of physical components.
9. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the physical
 components within the first and second sets of physical
 components comprises a software agent coupled to the
 instrument.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein the logical instrument
 includes a logical gauge.
11. The method of claim 7, wherein the logical instrument
 includes a logical control.

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12. The method of claim 7, wherein all physical components within the first and second sets of physical components are of a same type.
13. The method of claim 7, wherein:
creating a second set of physical components comprises
adding a first physical component to the network;
wherein the method further comprises:
detecting the first physical component has been added
to the network;
instantiating a first physical model object
corresponding to the first physical component; and
updating a logical object to reflect a relationship
between the first physical model object and the
instrument.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein detecting, instantiating, and updating are performed automatically.
15. The method of claim 7, wherein:
creating a second set of physical components comprises
removing a first physical component to the network;
wherein the method further comprises:
determining the first physical component has been
removed the network; and
updating a logical object to reflect that the first
physical model object is not related to the
instrument.

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16. The method of claim 15, wherein detecting and updating are performed automatically.
17. An apparatus operable for carrying out the method of claim 7.

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18. A data processing system readable medium having code for estimating usage of a component within a network, wherein the code is embodied within the data processing system readable medium, the code comprising:
 - an instruction for provisioning or de-provisioning a physical component on the network; and
 - an instruction for updating a logical object to reflect the provisioning or de-provisioning of the physical component.
19. The data processing system readable medium of claim 18, wherein the code further comprises:
 - an instruction for detecting that the physical component has been added to the network; and
 - an instruction for instantiating a physical model object corresponding to the physical component.
20. The data processing system readable medium of claim 19, wherein the instruction for updating the logical object comprises an instruction for relating the physical model object to the logical object.
21. The data processing system readable medium of claim 18, wherein the code further comprises an instruction for determining that the physical component has been removed from the network.

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22. A data processing system readable medium having code for estimating usage of a component within a network, wherein the code is embodied within the data processing system readable medium, the code comprising:
- an instruction for using a logical instrument with a first set of physical components;
 - an instruction for creating a second set of physical components that is different from the first set of physical components; and
 - an instruction for using the logical instrument with the second set of physical components, wherein the logical instrument is not manually reconfigured between using the logical instrument with the first set of physical components and using the logical instrument with the second set of physical components.
23. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22, wherein the logical instrument is not changed between using the logical instrument with the first set of physical components and using the logical instrument with the second set of physical components.
24. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22, wherein each of the physical components within the first and second sets of physical components comprises a software agent coupled to the instrument.
25. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22, wherein the logical instrument includes a logical gauge.

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26. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22,
wherein the logical instrument includes a logical control.
27. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22,
wherein all physical components within the first and second
sets of physical components are of a same type.
28. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22,
wherein:
the instruction for creating a second set of physical
components comprises an instruction for adding a first
physical component to the network;
wherein the code further comprises:
an instruction for detecting the first physical
component has been added to the network;
an instruction for instantiating a first physical
model object corresponding to the first physical
component; and
an instruction for updating a logical object to
reflect a relationship between the first physical
model object and the instrument.

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29. The data processing system readable medium of claim 22,

wherein:

the instruction for creating a second set of physical components comprises an instruction for removing a first physical component to the network;

wherein the code further comprises:

an instruction for determining the first physical component has been removed the network; and

an instruction for updating a logical object to reflect that the first physical model object is not related to the instrument.

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30. A system for managing a network comprising:
a logical instrument;
at least one physical model object corresponding to at
least one physical component; and
a logical object, wherein the logical object relates the
physical model object to the logical instrument.
31. The system of claim 30, wherein the logical instrument is
coupled to a plurality of physical model objects, wherein all
of the physical model objects are of a same type.
32. The system of claim 30, further comprising the at least one
physical component.
33. The system of claim 32, wherein the at least one physical
component comprises a software agent coupled to the at least
one physical model object.